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Abductions

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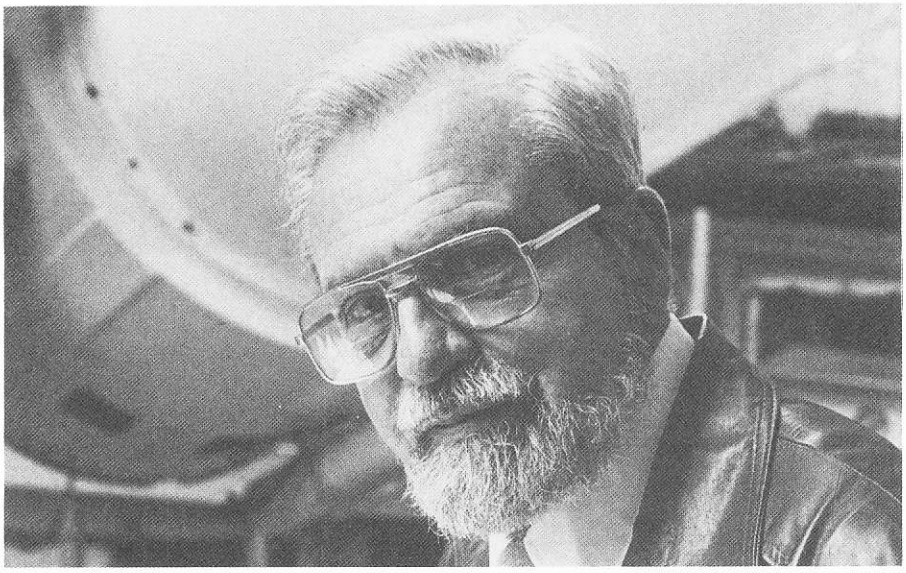

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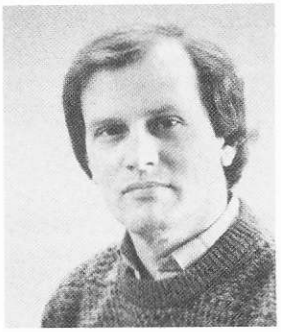
EDITORIAL

Flying saucer fascism



Jerome Clark

As 1989 enters its waning months it is safe to say that ufology is even more divided than usual. The division is not between UFO organizations — CUFOS enjoys good relations with the other major American groups, the Mutual UFO Network and the Fund for UFO Research — but between individuals of widely varying temperaments, education, paranoia levels, and reasoning ability. On some levels ufology is maturing; on others it is regressing. Ufology may have reached a state in which it now has two cultures: one, an elite culture of serious, sophisticated researchers and analysts who understand what ufology must do to make its case; the other, a folk culture of flying-saucer fans and mystery-mongers who will believe anything, especially if it's wondrous or scary enough.

Those of us who have tried to keep an optimistic view of our fellows have been sorely tried in recent months by the credulous acceptance, in some circles, of preposterous yarns about man-eating aliens, secret human-extraterrestrial treaties, alien bases in New Mexico, and all the rest. Not an iota of evidence exists to substantiate any of this stuff, though that doesn't seem to have stopped either the tall-tale-tellers or the tall-tale-believers. Even worse, these fantasies (or lies; take your pick) are linked with rightwing conspiracy-theory notions about Presidential assassinations and the sinister machinations of the Trilateral Commission. Recently one of the proponents of these nutty ideas — I assume his face was straight at the time — told an audience of saucer fans, who to their discredit did not laugh him out of the auditorium, that President Kennedy was murdered by his own Secret Service chauffeur (it's right there on film, the guy says; I guess I must need new glasses) because Kennedy threatened to tell the truth about extraterrestrial visitation. Not only that, but 80 American scientists who objected to the human-alien treaty (huh? oh, yeah, *that* human-alien treaty) were massacred in a single day. (And moreover, inevitably, "Phil Klass is an agent of the CIA." And I'm the uncle of a chimpanzee.) If you believe any of this, have I got a deal for you on a pink elephant.

Not long ago a UFO magazine edited by someone I like and respect printed, in a remarkable lapse in judgment, an article that brought together UFO paranoia with convoluted charges about an evil group which seeks to unite "all humanity into a global community under a central control.... Having achieved the voluntary surrendering of national identities, THEY would move quickly to consolidate power into THEIR own hands." "THEY" would then commit genocide against the "unproductive and unhealthy elements of humanity," leaving a "tiny ruling elite, a healthy producing class and enough healthy lower-grade humans to perform the most degrading or menial tasks.... The One World would be achieved at last."

Who are "THEY"? Some clues: "The master domination plan began centuries ago, during the later Middle Ages and the Renaissance, with the first real attempts at consolidating wealth among the great early trading and banking families of Europe. Little by little, pushing ahead three steps and being forced backward two, through many generations of patient and purposeful manipulation, THEY have surrounded the world and its people.... That is the context in which the October 14 test was conducted." The "October 14 test" was to everybody but the writer of this bizarre piece last year's embarrassing and hilarious *UFO Cover-up ... Live* show. Apparently the masters of the earth are so inept that they can't even put together a good television program. (So if they're that incompetent, how could they have taken over the planet? Never mind.) Anyway, what do UFOs have to do with this? UFOs, it turns out, "have been seized upon by THEM and assimilated cunningly into THEIR plot. THEY knew that this sudden surge of genuine UFO activity in the mid-1940s spelled Big Trouble to THEIR existing plans. THEY acted immediately. It has taken THEM over 40 years, but THEY have succeeded.... We are now ripe for the next phase of THEIR scheme: the staging of the UFO Invasion, and the appeal for the dropping of national identities, *so that global political coordination (first) and (second) unification can take place*." And on and on in that vein.

It's a safe rule of thumb that people who use lots of capital letters and italics to make their points are not to be taken seriously (the prose style of a certain prominent debunker comes to mind), and no sensible person would take any of the above seriously — or at least the sub-

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The Bangor CE3

by Donald A. Johnson

■■ **Donald A. Johnson, Ph.D., is a research psychologist and experienced UFO investigator.**

On September 1, 1987, Bob Gribble of the UFO Reporting Center called to tell me he had received a report of a UFO sighting by two boys who lived in base housing with their families at the Bangor (Washington) Naval Submarine Base. I phoned Charlene Springsteen, 26, the mother of one of the boys, and got the following account:

Randy Springsteen, eight, and his neighbor Dennis Mauer, 10, were spending the night together and Mrs. Springsteen permitted them to go outside for a few minutes to play on the playground equipment. This was at approximately 10:55 on Monday evening, August 31. The two boys were outdoors for about 10 minutes.

Suddenly they ran back in "as white as ghosts" and reported that they had seen a big circular-shaped object, hovering 20-40 feet over her house, shine a beam of light down on the house, then come directly over the boys on the playground equipment and shine a larger beam of light down on them. After a few minutes, during which they saw two catlike humanoid figures aboard the craft, the object moved away and the kids fled.

After hearing from the boys, the mother went outside and saw an "aircraft" with many — "10 to 20" — red and blue lights arranged in a row in the northwestern sky. Knowing that airplanes have red and green running lights, she concluded that she must be seeing something else. Then the object made a quick turn and zipped away. She looked around the immediate neighborhood to see if any of her neighbors also witnessed the event, but none of her neighbors were out.

The boys reported that they saw an occupant — "some sort of creature" — through a door or opening in the bottom-middle of the craft. It had large, long, "catlike" ears and was standing up. Randy and Dennis saw it bend over something which looked like a search-light and shine the light down on them by pulling a lever. They saw a second, similar-looking occupant in a second doorway, in the bottom-lower left of the craft.

Mrs. Springsteen had the boys draw sketches of what they had seen the following morning. Her husband, an enlisted man in the Navy with the rank of E-6, works with the base security forces. She told me he was skeptical of the boys' account and reluctant to have them report the sighting to any officials.

Mrs. Springsteen called the Bremerton, Washington, police to report the sighting and had a friend, on her behalf, call the private security force, Pan Am, that provides security for the base housing. The Bremerton police, who incidentally would have been out of their jurisdiction and so can't legally investigate in response to a call from the Bangor base, suggested she call 911 if she felt the incident warranted the attention, and the Pan Am base security guard did not regard the UFO report as a serious matter.

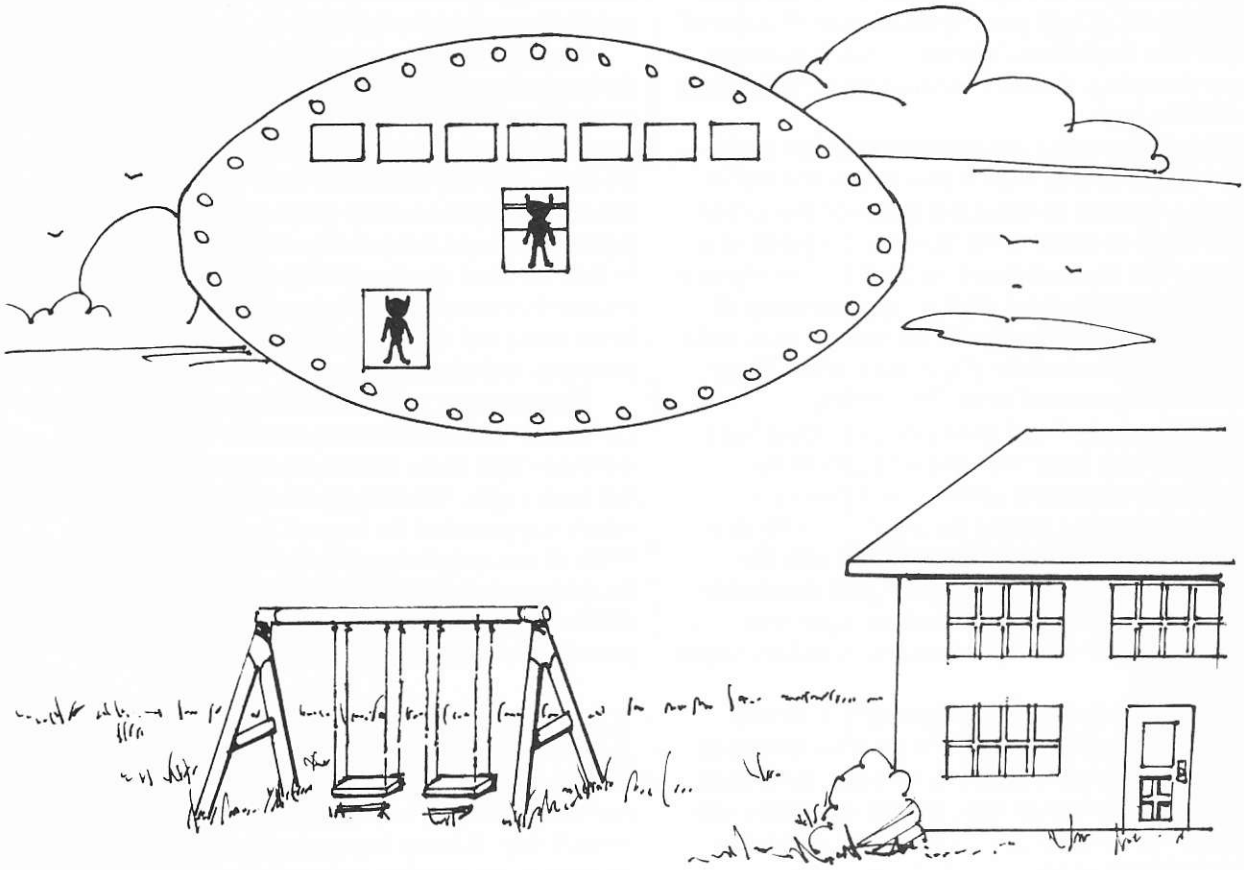
I suggested that she might report the sighting to the base commander because the UFO was an unauthorized aerial object in a restricted federal area. I emphasized at the same time that I did not mean to pressure her to do so and I left the decision up to her. She told me she would think about it and meanwhile she would talk with Dennis' mother and have her call me.

Half an hour later I received a phone call from Linda Mauer, Dennis' mother. At first, she said, Dennis had not told her about the encounter the night before because he wasn't sure she would believe him. When she did learn about their encounter from Charlene Springsteen, she had Dennis draw sketches of what he had seen. The sketches were identical to those drawn earlier. This convinced her that the boys were reporting a real event and not making something up.

Mrs. Mauer also reported that she had had a UFO sighting in New Mexico and was more willing to accept the boys' account of the events because of it. Her sighting occurred at her home at a time when the family was living in the desert, "30 miles from anything," and as she was hanging a bedspread on the clothesline, she noticed three bright red columns of light move through the sky.

I called Jim Clarkson, a police officer and MUFON field investigator, and asked him to check with police and sheriff departments in the Bangor area to see if they had logged any other UFO reports. He reported back that he had talked with the Kitsap County Sheriff's Department which said it had received no reports.

I interviewed Mrs. Springsteen, Randy, Dennis and Linda Mauer in person on Sunday, September 6. The base is a high-security restricted area not open to the public and a visitor needs special permission from



someone living on the base to get to base housing. Base housing is south and about 1/4 mile away from the top-security military installation where the nuclear submarines are docked and nuclear missiles stockpiled. I arrived at the witnesses' neighborhood on F Court of Albacore Circle in the early afternoon.

The immediate neighborhood consists of approximately 25 housing units, grouped into four- or five-unit townhouses which are approximately 25 feet apart. The playground is shared by 50 to 60 families and the swingset on which the boys were playing at the time of the UFO encounter was estimated by Mrs. Springsteen to be 75 feet from the Springsteen house. I later measured the distance and found it to be 82 feet.

On the night of the encounter Dennis was staying overnight at his friend Randy's house. This was the last week of summer before school started and the boys were up late. In a private conversation with one of the neighbors I learned that it is not uncommon for the children in the neighborhood to be out playing late at night.

According to Dennis, "I asked Sherri if we could go out in the backyard and swing on the swings and she said no and we begged her and begged her and she said yes. And we went out there, and it just flew over this [the Springsteen] house and then it went over the park."

The boys were sitting on the swings and trying to spook each other by talking about Freddy, the demon-monster from the *Nightmare on Elm Street* movie. Neither of the boys had seen the movie but it was common for the neighborhood children to tell stories that "Freddy is going to get you." It was at this point that they first noticed the "spaceship, with red and blue lights going around it," coming in from due east at the height of two stories above the rooftops. The object stopped and hovered over the F-Court townhouse, shone a beam of light down on the house, then moved directly over the boys and shone another, brighter beam down on them. When the object moved toward them, it moved oddly, with a jerking motion: move and then stop, move and then stop.

When the boys first sighted the object, a few meters over the house, Randy's mother was inside working at her sewing machine, and she had the drapes in the dining room and kitchen closed, with only one drape partially opened so that she could keep an eye on the boys. The sewing machine was around a bend in the wall separating the dining room from the kitchen and partially blocking her view of the window that looks out on the playground. This is why she believes she did not see the light beam.

Mrs. Springsteen reported that the boys described the light as "telescoping." The light beamed on and beamed

off, and then a wider or brighter beam was shone on the boys. The beam of light came from the bottom-center of the UFO. The bright beam apparently had a levitating effect on the swings the boys were sitting on, lifting them up toward the craft.

Although the object was reported to be low to the ground — 40 or so feet when it passed over the roof of the house — it made no noise and there was no sand or wind blown up as would occur from the downdraft of a helicopter. The boys estimated the height of the object as two building heights above them — approximately 80 feet. They estimated the object's diameter to be as wide as the sand-filled area of the playground, which I later measured and determined to be 52 feet wide.

According to the boys' testimony, the object had a round bottom with many blue and red lights on the outside edge in alternating colors. The lights were rotating or sequencing around the object, possibly in a counterclockwise direction. The boys saw only the bottom of the object and some type of peak or antenna projecting from the top. The rest of the object was obscured from their view by the angle at which the object presented itself.

Dennis' first sketch shows eight lighted, square-shaped windows across the upper third of the bottom of the object. But Randy's sketch and Dennis' subsequent sketches show five square-shaped windows. There were two "doors" or openings, one in the center of the craft and one in the lower left. In each doorway stood an occupant. The creature standing at the center doorway was observed operating the searchlight which was directed on the two boys.

Dennis and Randy said the two entities were over six feet tall ("taller than Randy's dad"), with oversized heads and thin, spindly bodies. They were covered with greenish fur and wore no visible clothing. They were humanoid, apparently bipedal. The creatures had unusually long, spindly arms, and bodies and legs that seem biologically improbable — that is, unable to support such large heads. Dennis described the size of the principal creature's torso as no greater around in circumference than his thigh, which I judged to be less than six inches in diameter.

Both creatures had large pointed, catlike ears on an oval-shaped head. The eyes were bluish-green and round, with unusually long eyelashes. The mouth was wrinkled, "like an old grandma's." The fingers and toes of the creature in the central doorway were described by Dennis as long, with suction cups on the tips. Dennis didn't know or recall the word for suction cups, so he compared them to the "things on the front of darts." Randy's drawing didn't have suction cups but he went along with Dennis' assertion about them. Dennis, whose description is more elaborate than Randy's, characterized the feet as "frog feet" and felt that both the hands and feet were webbed. Both boys drew sketches which showed a creature with big, pointed ears (estimated to be 12 to 14 inches long), eyes with unusually long eyebrows, a wrinkled mouth and a skinny body.

Mrs. Springsteen reported that when she returned to the house after going out and seeing the UFO depart, she noticed the sliding glass door in her dining room was open and the wind was blowing the curtains out through the door. She was certain she hadn't gone out that way and doesn't recall anybody else's opening the door. She regard this as odd and possibly connected to the incident. In fact, the more she thought about it, the more she became frightened that someone or something might be in the house and so she got down her husband's rifle for protection and sat with it until he came home from work.

The next-door neighbor, residing at F-17 Albacore Circle, saw from her bedroom window a bright white, stationary light in the eastern sky at sometime after 10:30 that same night. She thought she may have seen the UFO before it approached the boys on the playground. A check of star and planet guides revealed, however, that the woman most probably had watched the planet Jupiter, which was in the eastern sky in approximately the right place to be mistaken for an unusual light.

Both boys related their stories with some excitement in their voices but in an otherwise matter-of-fact manner. They began to lose interest toward the end of my interview and asked to be excused so that they could go out and play. It is my impression that they were not lying but were trying to relate as best they could some unusual event which they believed had happened to them.

While reasonably certain that the boys were not making up the story, I am not certain to what degree the facts of the case are exaggerated or distorted. We need to keep in mind that the boys were in a receptive state of mind to have a spooky or bizarre event occur because they had just been trying to scare each other with tales of Freddy. It is undeniable that the creatures they described were unbelievably strange, even goblinlike, in their appearance, like storybook characters. The link between saying "Freddy is going to get you" and seeing those frightening creatures may be more than coincidence.

Furthermore, it is difficult, though not impossible, to believe that a UFO could penetrate an extremely sensitive military installation and not be detected. If the incident had gone on for much longer, it would certainly have stretched the bounds of believability to have it go unnoticed and not be responded to by security personnel. The fact that the encounter was relatively brief in duration lends some credence to the possiblity that some type of physical object could maneuver in a treetop level and then depart so quickly that it could evade detection.

The lack of any noise or downdraft makes a military-helicopter explanation unlikely. The multiple red and blue lights that Mrs. Springsteen observed would also make a helicopter or conventional-aircraft explanation unconvincing. An advertising plane might seem at first

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The trouble with UNICAT — part one

by Paul Fuller and Wim van Utrecht

■■ **Paul Fuller, council member of the British UFO Research Association, is a professional statistician. Wim van Utrecht directs the Belgium Studiegroep voor Vreemde Luchtverschijnselen (Group for Study of Strange Aerial Phenomena) and edits *SVL Newsletter* and *SVL Report*.**

Over the past 25 years several databases have been developed to record various types of UFO data. The most ambitious have been computer files created to record a full range of reports from many countries. Of these, UFOCAT, created by David Saunders in the late 1960s, remains the most impressive. UFOCAT's goal was essentially to record all available UFO reports from case files and the literature, but the file has not been updated since about 1980.

In the early 1980s Willy Smith and J. Allen Hynek decided to begin a new database designed to record only high-quality reports that remain unidentified. This database was called UNICAT, and the two researchers planned to include far more information about each report than does UFOCAT or other compilations.

Dr. Hynek invited me to help him and Dr. Smith with the creation of UNICAT, so I was familiar with the project from the start. I had certain misgivings concerning sampling, coding, and case-selection criteria, all of which I conveyed to Dr. Hynek, but the project continued on its course.

Dr. Smith and his collaborators have put much time and effort into UNICAT, but Paul Fuller and Wim van Utrecht see the database as fundamentally flawed. CUFOS is publishing their critique to present the matter to our readers and to the UFO community so that those who might use UNICAT are aware of its limitations. We hope this article will stimulate a serious consideration of the types of databases ufology requires to advance the tasks of investigation and research. — Mark Rodeghier, Scientific Director, CUFOS

The creation of a reliable, high-quality database of UFO cases has long been the aim of responsible researchers of the UFO phenomenon, because a carefully designed database offers ufologists the opportunity to analyze patterns and distributions which should ultimately allow us to make real advances in our understanding of the unexplained data. We applaud all attempts to set up such a database and in that spirit we offer the following observations on the UNICAT Project.

The UNICAT Project was initiated during 1984 by Willy Smith, a retired college professor, and by J. Allen Hynek, regarded by many as the founder of the modern UFO movement. The aim of the UNICAT Project was "to create a database of high-quality sightings from which all IFOs and dubious cases have been expurgated." This, the project claims, has now been accomplished since the UNICAT database contains more than 600 UFO cases originating from over 60 nations throughout the world.

We have taken a close look at the UNICAT database and found several issues that we believe greatly reduce the reliability and usefulness of the UNICAT database as a research tool. We would like to emphasize that our critique is by no means exhaustive and that although we level many criticisms against UNICAT, it is true that many of these criticisms could be equally leveled against other similar projects. We hope that our comments will lead to a better understanding of the issues involved in creating a scientifically-acceptable database.

(1) The lack of explicit, clearly stated statistical aims, objectives and methodology

In our opinion, the creation of any database of UFO reports should have the following four primary objectives:

(a) to quantitatively describe typical (sub classes of) UFO reports;
(b) to search for and statistically validate the existence of sub classes of reports within the overall database;
(c) to identify statistically significant differences between each sub class of reports; and
(d) to infer any such differences to the population of UFO reports in general.

Allan Hendry has suggested that we best meet these objectives by using the identified reports (the IFOs) as a control group of observations against which we can compare the unexplained UFO reports (the TRUFOS), because observations of both IFOS and TRUFOS are subject to the same degree of observer error (which otherwise distorts the patterns we are searching for) which our database needs to minimize. Our aim will be to identify *statistically-significant differences* between the TRUFOS and the IFOs (that is, those variations that cannot have arisen due to chance factors) because any such differences must provide clues as to the true nature of the unexplained data.

This methodology suggests that statistically-significant differences should be identified for mutually exclusive *sub groups* of UFO reports because we cannot assume that all UFO reports represent the same causal mechanisms. Thus it is our belief that our best approach to the analysis of the UFO data is to search for statistically-significant differences between and within these sub groups of reports because each sub group represents independent unexplained phenomena.

By making this assumption (which we recognize is open to debate), the UFO/IFO database must be successfully partitioned into separate classes of UFO events by the application of an objective discriminating procedure such as cluster analysis (which searches for groups of similar UFO reports while distinguishing them from the other, unrelated groups of reports).

Our first criticism of UNICAT therefore stems from the absence of an explicit statistical model for the identification of statistical clues to the true nature of the unexplained data. This, we believe, is a direct result of the failure of the project to fully discuss its aims and methodologies in the literature *before* the commencement of the project.

(2) The implicit belief in a technological solution to the UFO data

We are concerned that the project's director seems to believe that — if the unexplained cases represent anything at all — they must represent a technological phenomenon, and that there can be no place for what Dr. Smith has openly denigrated as "socio-psychological theories." This immediately suggests that the project has not been designed along strict scientific lines. We cannot reproach Smith for adopting any particular viewpoint as his working hypothesis, but critics of UNICAT and ufology will leap upon this as evidence of bias.

We note with concern Smith's statement that "the presence of UFOs seems to affect the functioning of internal combustion engines and electrical equipment...*this is such a typical effect that its absence in a close encounter should be considered a red flag for a possible IFO.*" Clearly Smith already knows what proportion of close encounters involve "electromagnetic" effects even before he's carried out his analysis!

We believe that this, along with other examples in the material available to us, indicates that the project was specifically designed to prove the existence of a nuts-and-bolts technology behind the UFO data. It would be presumptuous of us to rule out any possibility as an explanation for some of the unexplained data, but it seems strange to comment in this manner when the whole point of applying statistical methodology to the analysis of the UFO data is to avoid any possible charge of bias by ufologists.

A quick glance through the UNICAT variables soon illustrates that the project is interested only in proving a technological solution for the TRUFOS and that other possible explanations have been given short thrift. How can UNICAT claim to be objective when its collaborators are recording value-laden terms like "Craft (physical)," IA "Intelligent Answer" and ME "Metallic"? Where are variables that attempt to verify psychological theories or natural-atmospheric solutions for the unexplained data?

(3) Sampling

This is by far the most important issue we wish to discuss in this critique. When statisticians analyze UFO cases, they normally wish to infer characteristics of the *population* of UFO cases from a much smaller sample of UFO cases (because by examining a smaller *sample* of cases ufologists make great savings in their use of scarce resources). This critical condition would normally be met by collecting a *random sample* of UFO cases from the population of those UFO cases in existence where each case has been well-documented and properly investigated to scientific standards.

This concept of choosing a *representative* sample of UFO cases is crucially important when constructing databases such as UNICAT because ideally UNICAT should (a) list all possible UFO cases (which raises problems of definition), (b) design a sampling method which gives every UFO case an *equal probability of being chosen* for the UNICAT database, and (c) select a reasonably large sample of cases from which we could infer characteristics of UFO cases in general.

Unfortunately, with UFO events this cannot occur because (a) we do not have access to a list of all possible UFO cases, (b) these cases are already *subject to reporting bias* before they come to the attention of ufologists, and (c) the process by which UFO *reports* become UFO *cases* is subject to all manner of factors which affect the possibility that a full case report will be made available to researchers such as those at the UNICAT Project (see below). In short, unless we can be fairly sure that we have collected a *representative* sample of UFO cases, we cannot use the UNICAT database to infer characteristics of UFO cases in general.

The four selection criteria

When we first examined the UNICAT Project, we were surprised to discover that there seems to be no concept whatever of these important issues and that instead the project's director has simply *chosen* which cases he wants in the UNICAT database. For this reason, critics can always claim that any statistically-significant differences discovered in the UNICAT database may simply reflect variations in the reporting mechanism or variations in the value judgments of the UNICAT coders to include a case which might otherwise be excluded.

We accept that our criticism could be equally applied to any current database of UFO cases because those factors that result in statistical bias could equally well be applied to any current method of obtaining case reports. What we find so disturbing about UNICAT, however, is that these concepts have not been considered by the project's director and that, in his correspondence with us, Smith clearly has no concept of the importance of this issue. Take a look at Smith's four selection criteria and think how these depart from the standard definition of how representative samples are collected.

(a) the first criterion

Smith begins by selecting "cases with at least two witnesses." This criterion stems from an understandable concern that multiple-witness cases are less open to gross perceptual errors than single-witness cases (an assumption we would like to see proven). We criticize the first criterion because it makes the assumption that unexplained UFO mechanisms are *independent* of the witnesses who are observing them.

To take an example, what if (some) unexplained UFO reports turn out to be a previously unrecognized type of hallucination triggered under conditions of sensory deprivation (for example lone car drivers being "chased" by UFOs during long monotonous journeys)? UNICAT's first criterion would be excluding the very cases we need in order to demonstrate that single-witness (hallucinatory) cases are significantly different from multiple-witness (nonhallucinatory) cases.

Furthermore, should (some) unexplained UFO reports turn out to be the result of selective contact with lone witnesses by the phenomenon, how are we to demonstrate the different nature of these "contact" cases to the multiple-witness cases (which could represent other, quite independent phenomena) when the UNICAT database explicitly excludes lone-witness cases?

Our concern is compounded by the problem posed should there turn out to be a causal relationship between the unexplained UFO event and the sighting location. Thus if (some) unexplained UFO reports turn out to be products of unusual environmental conditions (for example "earthlights") and these environmental conditions occur with greater frequency in areas of low population density (for example areas of intense geomagnetic disturbance), these reports would be causally related to environmental factors which favor single-witness observers rather than multiple witnesses, and the UNICAT database will tend to exclude these cases while concentrating on other (sub classes) of reports.

Smith's first qualification

Smith goes on to state that "cases with a single witness will be accepted of this witness is 'unimpeachable,'" or if "additional supporting evidence exists." Although we agree that the existence of "additional supporting evidence" reduces the possibility that a report has a mundane explanation, we believe that this qualification places further responsibility on the UNICAT coders to ensure that they apply this undefined qualification with equal discrimination across a range of (probably unrelated) UFO sub classes.

We note that Smith asserts that "the testimony of a single witness is enhanced if he submits to hypnosis (HY)," a supposition many ufologists will question. Although recently hypnotic testimony was accepted as evidence in American courtrooms, negative opinions have been published abundantly in the professional literature.

(b) the second selection criterion

Smith's second criterion ("Cases have to be well investigated by known ufologists, preferably with results published in the literature") can be criticized on similar grounds to our previous comments because the criterion makes the assumption that "known ufologists" have equal access to the population of UFO reports, that the UNICAT project has an unbiased method of sampling from existing UFO groups, and that these groups will send the UNICAT project representative samples of UFO cases for submission to the UNICAT database. These are clearly important issues for a representative "high-quality database" because we will need to demonstrate that any statistically-significant variations in the UFO data do not suffer from cultural bias (for instance, unexplained South American car stop cases should be similar to unexplained European car stop cases).

We criticize the acceptance of cases by "well-known ufologists" on the grounds that:

- "Known ufologists" soon tire of submitting "full case reports" on every UFO report they receive and instead they tend to specialize (e.g., on abductions or ground-trace cases), with the effect that some reports have a greater probability of becoming a "full case report" than others;

- UFO groups frequently have *policies* which detract from uniform sampling (e.g., BUFORA simply

catalogues lights in the sky and undertakes little or no formal investigation; NICAP ignored entity reports for two decades);

- "Known ufologist" is hardly a guarantee that the "full case report" will be of an acceptable standard because "known ufologists" are not necessarily competent investigators. "Known ufologists" tend to hold strong opinions about the stimuli behind UFO phenomena and their "full case reports" tend to support their own conclusions; and

- Even "known ufologists" have been known to support the most dubious of UFO cases which ultimately could still end up in the UNICAT database because of the investigator's "credibility" under this condition (remember, for example, Jimmy Guieu's involvement in the Cergy-Pontoise hoax, or Antonio Ribera's confidence in the UMMO affair).

We note that a substantial proportion of the cases held in the UNICAT database originate from South American countries such as Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil. All the UNICAT collaborators in these countries are ''well known'' ufologists in their own countries, but even Smith himself remarks on the failings of South American ufologists, and we know from experience that some of these ufologists are unconditional and often fanatical supporters of the extraterrestrial hypothesis. With such an untrustworthy criterion for accepting cases into the UNICAT database we wonder why Smith attempted to define such an arbitrary criterion in the first place.

(c) Smith's third criterion

Again, Smith qualifies his selection criterion by accepting unpublished cases or cases investigated by "not-so-well-known researchers" if a "written report" is accessible to the UNICAT organizers (note the term "accessible") and if the initial investigators are "willing to provide additional information." Here the issue is that both "known researchers" and "unknown researchers" are a mixed bag whose objectivity and expertise cover a considerable range. There can be no guarantee that their reports constitute representative samples of the reporting being made or that they are collecting objective data in an objective way.

There seems to be a belief that a "written report" which is "lacking additional information" can be regarded as a good-quality case. Surely the fact that "additional information" is missing begs the question, "Has this case been properly investigated in the first place?"

We note, for example, that of the 92 entity cases listed in UNICAT, all but three carry references to popular UFO books and journals. For this reason we wonder what proportion of the UNICAT cases rely solely upon "full case reports" by "qualified researchers" and what proportion rely significantly on poorly researched cases superficially described in the trash UFO paperback literature. Both of us query whether "full case reports" exist for many of the "classic" UFO cases, and whether or not these cases have been included in the UNICAT database.

(d) Smith's fourth criterion

Smith's fourth criterion states that the minimum requirement for cases to be accepted into the UNICAT database is that the case (summary) "should contain at least 10 of the parameters specified by Dr. Hynek's list, which at present contains 225 repeatable characteristics of the UFO phenomenon." Does this mean that a case is acceptable to the UNICAT project if 215 of the 225 "repeatable characteristics" are missing?

We have asked Smith to produce a table summarizing what proportion of the UNICAT cases have 90 percent or more of the parameters recorded, between 80 and 89 percent of the parameters recorded, and so on but have received no response. We suspect that Smith cannot tell whether values are missing or not without having to reevaluate individual cases. Clearly a high-quality database in which a large proportion of the parameters are missing cannot be used to produce reliable, representative statistical distributions from which we can infer characteristics of the UFO phenomenon in general.

The truth is, unless UNICAT adopts a more representative sampling procedure, the existing method of selecting cases introduces all kinds of bias which distorts or masks real quantitive variations between explained and unexplained events. Even if UNICAT was adopting a random sampling procedure, the method by which UFO reports come to the attention of ufologists still introduces statistical bias into the UNICAT database which at present we are unable to evaluate. For this reason alone any current database of UFO reports cannot be used to infer characteristics of UFO reports in general, let alone one that introduces all manner of additional bias into the sampling procedure.

This is Part One of a two-part article.

(c) Paul Fuller and Wim van Utrecht ■

The CUFOS Photo Exhibit will be appearing in Altoona, Pennsylvania, on September 15, 16 and 17; in Indiana, Pennsylvania, on September 28, 29, 30 and October 1; and in Houston, Texas, on October 27, 28 and 29.

The abduction phenomenon in Australia

by Keith Basterfield, Vladimir Godic and Pony Godic

■■ Keith Basterfield and the Godics operate UFO Research Australia (Box 229, Prospect, South Australia 5082), an information-sharing network of serious researchers down under.

In the July/August 1988 issue of *IUR* Budd Hopkins, referring to the testable fantasy-prone hypothesis advanced by Keith Basterfield and Bob Bartholomew, wrote that his advice was "to put their theory on the back burner and to look into any reports of possible abductions that come their way." Unfortunately, within Australia this is easier said than done. There has been an apparent lack of well-investigated and well-documented abduction cases in this country. The authors therefore decided to review the situation and did so on two fronts. First, they undertook an intensive examination of the Australian UFO literature. Second, they undertook to uncover any previously unreported cases. This article documents our findings to date.

In 1976 Keith Basterfield co-authored a work titled *An Australian Catalogue of Close Encounter Type Three Reports*. In this work an attempt was made to collect and document all the Australian CE3 cases that were known as of that date. The result was a collection of some 36 cases. But none of these could be classed as possessing any characteristics associated with an abduction event.

The following year Bill Chalker of Sydney presented a paper at national conference UFOCON 3 at Surfers Paradise and wrote, concerning Australia, "Upon first inspection, we appear to have a complete absence of 'time loss,' 'abduction' and contact cases." Within two years, though, Chalker was on the trail of stories along the lines of "interrupted journeys." Three Australian events came to light.

In 1971, a Finnish couple, Ben and Helen K., left Gladstone, Queensland, at about 11:35 p.m. and upon arrival in Rockhampton found that only 40 minutes had passed on a trip that would normally take much longer. In addition to the rapid trip they could not recall passing through intervening places although they recalled seeing an unusual green light at one stage. Their 1971 Valiant sedan was reportedly covered with a thin film of odorless oil, and unusual marks were noted on the car's hood. Attempts at hypnotizing the couple were unsuccessful.

The second account told of an event dated January 10, 1978, at a place called the Balers Creek Falls, New South Wales. Gary P. had been driving alone in the early hours of the morning when he found himself unaccountably stationary on the side of the road at 5:00 a.m. He was unable to clearly remember the previous 160km. While stationary he noted a really bright light hovering some distance away. Although he tried to get close to it, he could not.

A researcher in Western Australia, Jeff Bell, came across the story of a truck driver. The incident took place near Baladonia in that state in February 1978. A memory lapse of three to 3 1/2 hours is said to have been associated with the observation of two unusual lights. During this time the driver says he recalls "talking to somebody about inventing something.... Also I remember speaking with two voices...." Investigators have been unable to learn anything more about this account.

The Frederick Valentich case burst on the scene in 1978 and in some quarters it was suggested he had in fact been abducted. The story is well known, but in condensed form, 20-year-old Frederick Valentich disappeared over Bass Strait while flying a Cessna aircraft between Melbourne and King Island. Some think he was abducted by the occupants of an object which he reported observing just before radio contact was lost with his aircraft.

In 1980 Keith Basterfield produced a more definitive study of local CE3 events and broadened the catchment area to include New Zealand as well as Australia. By this date 104 such events had come to light. There were five more cases which relate to today's abduction accounts.

The first one uncovered came via an article in the English *Flying Saucer Review* and is said to have occurred in Adelaide, South Australia, in 1955. A 10-year-old girl, Janet X, was being treated for a slight nervous disorder. While under hypnosis for this condition she recounted a story of her interaction with aliens and a flying saucer. She spoke of being in a saucer with three "men" and of visiting a planet with an advanced society. Pony Godic of UFORA spoke with one of the case's original investigators in 1989, but despite this we have not been able to relocate Janet X to reinterview her.

Two American paperbacks led us to an abduction report more typical of today; yet it is dated August 11, 1966. A Marlene Travers, of Melbourne, is reported to have observed a large silver disc land near her. She was abducted and raped by an alien wearing a loose fitting

metallic green tunic. The above books referenced the original source of the story as the *New York Chronicle* of November 21, 1966. A search by Pony Godic using the U.S. Library of Congress and the South Australian State Reference Library found a small college newspaper of that name in Hempstead, New York. No reply has yet been received to an inquiry directed to that paper. Any light American researchers could throw on this account would be most appreciated.

An interesting case occurred in 1972 and was ably investigated by Gary Little and Bill Stapleton of Melbourne. The significance of it was not understood at the time until it was re-examined for the 1980 catalogue. In early 1972 Maureen Puddy reported observing a disc-shaped object in the sky. Later in July she related that her car stopped itself as the same object hovered overhead. Several months later she recounted being abducted into a room and observing an entity there. This latter event occurred while two other persons were physically present with Mrs. Puddy but they reported only that Mrs. Puddy lapsed into unconsciousness. On a later occasion she said the entity again appeared to her when she was driving the car. This "mental" abduction has led some researchers to support an altered-state-of-consciousness approach to the abduction phenomenon.

The fourth event, which unfortunately could not be documented properly, came from Springwood, New South Wales, in 1973. One night two men were asleep in a caravan on a remote building site, when one was awakened by a blue light projecting from a hovering aerial disc. A time lapse of some two hours occurred. He felt that some "beings, Caucasian types," were somehow involved.

The fifth case was uncovered by Bill Chalker. In 1974 two young women from Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, felt compelled to get into their car which then allegedly drove itself to a remote spot. They were escorted by a brilliant white light source. Vague human shapes were seen and strange noises heard. There was an episode of missing time.

Two additional cases came to light at about this time. An old man is said to have been abducted near Elliott, Northern Territory, in 1976, after a bright object landed near him. Beings alighted and took him aboard. He said they asked him questions about life on earth before they returned him unharmed to the pick-up point. Investigations were unable to verify the account even though Pony Godic spent some time in 1989 corresponding with residents of Elliott in an attempt to uncover some leads. The other story emerged from Hobart, Tasmania, on the other side of Australia, again in 1976. A man and his wife had gone to bed. She fell asleep, leaving him awake. Suddenly through the closed door came three figures. One tried to put a bag over the man's legs in an apparent abduction attempt. He tried to awaken his wife, whereupon the figures departed through the window.

The frustrations of being unable to investigate a fascinating report came to the surface in the next case. At about 9:00 p.m. on February 5, 1979, an intense white light lit up the hood of a car driven by a young man, near Lawitta, Tasmania. The car engine stopped, the radio went dead and the lights went out. Later that evening the man was picked up by police in Hobart for driving the car without lights. They found him to be in a dazed condition and he did not know where he was. He was taken to a hospital apparently suffering from shock. The man, apparently suffering from shock, wished no further investigation of the matter.

Into the 1980s

In 1982 what had all the hallmarks of a classic multiple-witness abduction case happened. Keith Basterfield produced a short report in *UFO Research Australia Newsletter* describing "Australia's first abduction case?" But despite a promising start to investigations neither of the two witnesses wished to cooperate with inquirers and so the case languished in our files.

The details are as follows: Two young men were traveling in a car near Port Lincoln, South Australia, on October 24, 1981, when they encountered a "white endless space" where a time loss of several hours is said to have occurred. During this lost time they have vague memories of a "being" and recalled "walking into a big room." Just prior to the "space" they had been watching a mysterious light in the sky. Arrangements to have the men undergo a full investigation including hypnotic regression were unsuccessful.

Two years later, while documenting cases of near-death experiences (NDEs), Melbourne researcher Gary Little came across a case that contained aspects of both an NDE and a bedroom abduction. In 1979 a man named Mark retired to bed one night in Melbourne, Victoria, at about 11:00 p.m. Shortly after closing his eyes he lost all sense of sound and feeling and he found himself traveling in a tunnel through space. Looking forward, he noted a light at the end of the tunnel. His next awareness was of lying on a table in a "craft." He was medically examined by three beings, after which he panicked and then awoke in his own bed. The percipient didn't wish to take the matter any further.

At about the same time (1983) Pony Godic and Keith Basterfield were investigating another case from the Northern Territory. A 17-year-old-youth, Simon, reported a series of events which included a nighttime close encounter, a number of dreams and also observations of entities about the house. Investigation, however, led to the conclusion that the stories originated from reading Raymond Fowler's *Andreasson Affair*. The sketches Simon drew of his "aliens" were carbon copies of drawings from the book. Eventually he admitted he had indeed read the book whose story obsessed him to the point where his school grades suffered.

Finally a well-investigated apparent abduction event

emerged and was ably looked into and reported upon by Mark Moravec of Sydney. Two young men, out hunting near Jindabyne, New South Wales, in September 1978, reported seeing a bright spherical light on the ground some little distance away. Next night it was seen again. In 1983 one of the men began to recall memories of a two-hour time lapse on one of those nights. One memory was of the two men's being floated into a room where they were placed on a table and examined by tall, white-colored beings. Moravec wrote "there is at present no evidence to confirm the 'abduction' experience occurred as a real physical event."

Recent research

Thomas E. Bullard's 1987 compilation of global abduction cases, *UFO Abductions: The Measure of a Mystery*, contained 14 entries for Australia. This article presents brief details of 11 out of the 14. One of Bullard's cases, case 16, doesn't seem to describe "missing time" and another, case 214, occurred in 1868, and the third, case 26, is spurious. This last event, dated March 28, 1982, was almost certainly explainable by the sighting, by a fatigued driver and passenger, of the planet Venus rising. No missing time or abduction scenario emerged, other than in speculation in the media generated by overenthusiastic UFO researchers involved in the case.

By 1988, with the upsurge of the discovery of abduction cases in other countries, UFORA believed it was time to explore the dimension of events in this country. Therefore, in November 1988 we circulated a carefully worded "Letter to the Editor" to 20 metropolitan daily newspapers requesting potential abductees to contact us. It was published in papers in four different Australian states. Although we received 20 replies to this letter, none was of the nature of an abduction event.

Early 1989 brought five new cases to attention for review. One case (Nildottie) has been poorly investigated and reported so far only in a national mass-circulation magazine. Three older cases in New South Wales are currently under investigation by Chalker, and two cases under investigation by Ray Brooke and Basterfield in South Australia.

Here are brief details of the three New South Wales events: A Sydney woman recalls that as a young girl, aged four or five years, she saw a small being with large eyes in her bedroom during the daytime. She had little conscious recall of details of the event other than that she felt she went "somewhere else." Another Sydney woman woke up feeling agitated and heard a voice. Figures appeared and said to come with them. She went through a doorway into a room where she watched a scene on a screen. This screen showed pictures of her future life, and the events depicted later came true. The case is currently under active investigation and stretches over the time frame of 1978-1982. Finally, in 1976, a 31-year-old woman was overcome by a feeling of sickness while vacuuming her house. Three strange figures were seen in front of her. There was apparently telepathic communication and advice that she had to go with them. The next thing she remembers, it was five hours later and her boy friend had arrived home. It is interesting to note that no events post 1982 were located.

Meanwhile in 1979, in South Australia at a small country town called Nildottie, two men, Don and Jack, recounted an abduction experience which is alleged to have occurred near the River Murray. They were preparing for dinner when beings entered their house. They experienced a time lapse and found themselves standing by a large silver craft. They were subjected to psychological testing for several hours before realizing they were back at their kitchen table. A more recent case from Adelaide in 1988 is one in which a man reports that he is in two-way communication with the aliens via an implant in his ear. During an investigation he revealed that he had undergone two apparent out-of-body experiences in which he was "sucked out" of his body. He indicated that during these experiences he had been taken on board a UFO.

Current research

To determine the extent of the abduction phenomenon, and in the light of the availability of books by Randles, Hopkins, Klass and Strieber in Australia, we carried out another exercise in June 1989. We forwarded a neutrally-worded "Letter to the Editor" to 51 regional newspapers scattered all over the country. Shortly thereafter we forwarded a media release and background briefing paper to selected metropolitan daily newspapers and radio stations. We did not target television stations because we had no visual material to present. The net result was coverage on two TV shows, items in five major metropolitan newspapers, items in an unknown number of country papers, and interviews on 31 radio stations, all in one week. This was the most intense media exposure ever given to the subject of abductions to date in Australia. Several previously unknown cases are being investigated.

Discussion

Unlike the United States or the United Kingdom, abduction accounts have never made front-page headlines or featured heavily in the electronic media within Australia. The only exception to this rule was the case of the missing pilot Frederick Valentich; that one made headlines throughout the world. All of the rest of the reports documented here have come to the attention either through UFO research organizations or through low-key press articles. This has meant that to date researchers have been able to pursue cases out of the media spotlight. On the other hand, with little mass

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Abductions in Italy

by Paolo Fiorino, Gian Paolo Grassino and Antonio Chiumiento

■■ Paolo Fiorino, a founding member of Centro Italiano Studi Ufologici (CISU), directs that organization's Humanoid Study Group. Gian Paolo Grassino, also a founder of CISU, Italy's leading UFO group, edits the journal *UFO — Rivista di Informazione Ufologica*. Antonio Chiumiento is an active investigator of sightings in his country.

An overview

There are 34 known Italian abduction reports out of 382 CE3 cases in CISU files, but among these 10 involve the same witness (Fortunato Zanfretta; see below), eight are admitted hoaxes and five are better defined as "on-board" experiences by contactees.

Public knowledge of abductions began in December 1978, following Zanfretta's first encounter, though the Italian press had reported the Hill, Hickson-Parker and Walton cases. A large amount of information was published in 1986 about the Calalzo di Cadore abduction/hypnosis affair.

A clear difference exists between more recent abduction reports and earlier reports in the 1960s and '70s. These latter are more accurately called contact claims.

The first case is from 1954. On December 13 Naples newspapers reported that a 57-year-old peasant in Gricignano di Aversa, missing for two days (since December 8), returned to report he had been "kidnapped" by two individuals dressed "like the rainbow." They made him "walk for 48 hours without stopping." He felt as if he were "flying" and weightless.

A full investigation by Umberto Telarico in 1974 learned only a little more than was in the press story, since the witness had died. His son added that his father was completely dry when he came back, even though it had rained for two days. After the experience, the man had lived in a wild, confused state and feared "they" would come back for him.

No UFO was reported but the event took place during a great wave of UFO reports nationally.

(I note here an older case, reported in the newspaper *La Nazione* on March 2, 1933. This may or may not be related to the modern abduction phenomenon. A peasant in Favorino [province of Reggio Calabria] was seized from his home by a "man" who took him away for about 30 meters, then slapped him. After that he found himself on the top of a tall tree, where the being was holding him by the hair. He crossed himself and the entity disappeared, leaving him unable to speak. He could tell his story only by gestures when the neighbors finally found him and helped him to get down.)

Several CE3s took place in Italy during the 1978-79 wave, and two of them were classic abductions: the well-known Zanfretta case and a less-known event in Lusiana (province of Vicenza). On January 18, 1979, at 11:30 p.m., a 42-year-old wood-cutter's car stopped, its lights turned off and the doors opened by themselves. An "orange ball" was sitting on the road in front of the driver, and two copper-colored humanoids, one meter tall, came down from a door. The man was unable to escape as the beings approached. They were wearing metallic-looking, scaled coveralls. Their hands were long and ended with pointed nails. Their ears were like twisted wires which were vibrating and humming. The beings invited him on board by gestures and he followed them into a small room (two square meters) with electronic-looking gadgets and a screen. The beings began undressing him but he resisted, very frightened. Then the wall opened and an overall was shown to him. He feared they wanted him to wear it, so he sat down and implored them to let him go. At this point, one of the beings gave him a small box on which he had written something. A door opened and the wood-cutter got out. Suddenly the orange light disappeared and the night was dark again, except for his carlights, which he found on again.

A few potential or hidden abduction cases have also been collected. In these cases a UFO-related missing time was reported but no on-board memory.

February 23, 1978, 11:45 p.m., Sesto Fiorentino (Firenze):

An engaged couple heard interference on their car radio. When the man got out to investigate, a "warm, violet light" enveloped him. He saw "four shapes" and lights all around. After completing his walk around the car he got back inside, where he found his girl friend crying. Twenty minutes had passed during what the man

thought was a very brief excursion.

September 21, 1978, 8:00 p.m., Cosenza:

A young man walking near a yard saw all the area illuminated as if by daylight. The surrounding blocks were lost to view. Upon a hill he saw an ovoid object resting on the ground and a human shape with two antennae. Frightened, he ran away but fell while four humanoid beings came closer by jumps. He fainted and when he recovered he was surrounded by four 1 1/2-meter-tall entities wearing buttoned jackets, a rucksack and helmets with antennae. Their hands looked like pincers. He fainted again and he woke up at 8:30 p.m., but all had disappeared.

December 8, 1978, 11:00 p.m., Milanere (Torino):

Two young men walking along a mountain slope sighted a blue-white light among the trees. One of them got closer and disappeared. A few minutes later the light took off into the sky. The other man went to call for help from friends and a group of people came to search for the missing one, finally finding him in a different direction. He was unconscious, cold, and weak and could not bear any light. Both witnesses suffered from conjunctivitis for several days. The one who had vanished had a strange scar on his leg and remembered only that he was approaching a pear-shaped light when he saw three or four human shapes, with pumpkinlike heads silhouetted against the light. He could not move. After that he could recall odd lights and sounds and a feeling of being touched and raised. He refused to be hypnotized.

Only one abduction was related entirely under hypnosis. It involved a 16-year-old UFO buff who found and photographed strange traces on the ground near Lago d'Idro (Brescia) on July 27, 1973. Four years later he was hypnotized and under hypnosis he said had been approached and touched by a "human shape" who had made him lose consciousness. When he woke up he was being sucked into an aerial "object" through an opening underneath and a "vertical tunnel."

He found himself in a round room where four "persons" were standing. Then a woman came in and the entities began moving around and talking and touching him on his forefront and his sides. He was nearly paralyzed and could only move his eyes. He was then taken to another room and he was directed to sit on a chair, where he could see outside while the UFO landed where he was before.

He then left the object and watched the craft take off. He picked up his camera and photographed the traces. The psychologist who conducted the hypnosis thinks it was a fantastic dream responding to specific needs of the youngster (as a far more complete analysis argued; the case was quoted by the doctor in the medical literature).

We can summarize the abduction situation in Italy as follows:

(1) The abduction phenomenon in Italy is rare.
(2) No great attention has ever been paid by the media; only Zanfretta got a national coverage.
(3) Few detailed investigations were conducted and no case was fully researched.
(4) Hypnotic regression has been rare and in some cases (e.g., Zanfretta) has apparently gone out of control.
(5) Typical abduction features from other countries are also reported in Italy (in particular, the sequence of events). — *Paolo Fiorino*

The Zanfretta case

On December 6, 1978, at 11:00 p.m., the first event in the most interesting and complex Italian UFO abduction sequence occurred. I will summarize only the first two abductions and attempt a general evaluation.

While patroling at Marzano di Torriglia (Genova province), 26-year-old nightwatchman Fortunato "Piero" Zanfretta suddenly noticed four "flashlights" moving in a courtyard. He called his company headquarters by radio but got no answer, so he got out of the car holding his pistol and flashlight, entered the courtyard and moved cautiously along a house wall thinking of burglars. Then he was pushed forward and fell down.

When he got up, his head hit something and he pointed his flashlight upward, only to find a three-meter-tall monster with an ugly face. Terrified, he dropped the flashlight on the ground and the entity disappeared.

He ran to the car and was blinded by a yellow triangle-shaped object taking off from behind the house. He called for help through the radio. When his colleagues arrived at 1:00 a.m., they found him lying in a nearby lawn, in a confused state of mind.

The event was reported in the local newspapers and at once became a simple man's story amplified, filtered and distorted by the media and polluted by ufologists and journalists.

On December 23 Zanfretta was put under hypnosis by a medical doctor. He related that he was taken into a bright room by giant entities who put a hot and painful helmet onto his head. The humanoids were green-skinned and had yellow triangular eyes, red veins on their head, pointed ears and rounded fingers.

That was only the first of a series of abductions and of hypnosis sessions ("truth-serum" was later used as well), which gave birth to two parallel stories: conscious memories by Zanfretta and his colleagues telling the "before" and "after" of each abduction and the hypnotic recalls of the "during." Such a scheme was repeated in the eight or nine abductions that followed. The result was a blend of seemingly sincere testimony, fantastic

dreamlike sequences, physical evidence and secondary witnesses.

A few days after the first hypnosis, on December 28, 1978, at 11:46 p.m., Fortunato Zanfretta called his headquarters to say he had lost control of his car near the Scoffera gallery, a few miles from Torriglia. The vehicle was speeding by itself along the mountain road in the fog and he could do nothing to stop it. Four minutes later he called again. Now, he said, the car had stopped and he was getting out to see a strange light outside.

Once again the rescue patrol cars arrived one hour later from Genova and found him outside the car, beside himself. He was dry and warm, even though it was raining and cold, and the car interior and roof were hot. His pistol had fired six bullets, and several giant footprints (50 cms. long) were clearly visible (they were later destroyed by local ufologists after making plaster casts).

A second hypnosis session was conducted and filmed by a local TV station. Once again the nightwatchman reported that he had been taken on board, undressed and examined by strange devices. The beings had asked him some questions and promised to come back for him.

New details were added on February 6, 1979, during a session with sodium pentathol: the strange-looking beings allegedly were from a lost people in the galaxy and wanted to colonize earth. The UFO's interior, weirdly, was larger than its exterior. Beings of both sexes were there. Zanfretta had a dual role: as a specimen to study and as a kind of mediator with us earthlings. He was promised proof: a device (a pyramid inside a sphere) which could project the aliens' image like a hologram.

This already complicated story continued, even more complex and confused, through the following two years, with several encounters, some of them published or reported by local ufologists, while others are known to us only as rumors, despite several hypnosis sessions and newspaper and TV interviews. Indeed Zanfretta was "adopted" by local UFO-buff groups who claimed a virtual monopoly on him.

In time, his accounts got more and more fantastic, comprising telepathic contacts and dialogues with the entities while he was under hypnosis; a "ufologists' file" kept by the entities on board; a sort of subterranean base where there were cylinders containing prehistoric animals under ice; and so on. The promised "proof" was finally given to him but he allegedly destroyed it.

In 1981 the experiences ceased abruptly, without the promised final kidnapping of Zanfretta to another planet.

Although a whole book was written (by journalist Rino Di Stefano) on this case, as well as dozens of articles and hundreds of pages of investigation reports, it's nearly impossible to reach any firm conclusion about it.

A first problem is the quality of available information: dubious because it has been tainted by sensation-seeking individuals and careless investigators. We don't know what are facts and what are distortions and confabulations. Also the alleged physical evidence and corroborative testimonies are difficult to evaluate, for a number of reasons.

The very special surrounding climate should be kept in mind. The simple man found himself in the front pages and on TV, ridiculed, heavily influenced by "ufologists" (who even took him along on their sky-watches), confused by hypnosis sessions, and hurt at work by the withdrawal of his license to carry arms. It is conceivable that he "recorded" all such stimuli and gave them back mediated through his own memories and fantasies, when put under hypnosis. We don't mean to exclude a physical, objective cause for his experiences, but we are no longer able to distinguish it among the subjective images presented by Zanfretta.

That's why we believe that the first two encounters are the most significant ufologically, especially the very first one, because external influences could not yet affect them. Thus it's a pity that no concerted and responsible investigation was conducted at the time.

The Zanfretta case history was a sort of book on which everyone involved in the affair (journalists, employers, ufologists, friends) not only "read" but also "wrote" his own plot, thus making it too much a multi-faceted story for us to understand it as a whole. — *Gian Paolo Grassino*

The Calalzo di Cadore case

At 11:00 p.m. on August 15, 1986, a 42-year-old professional and his wife (a teacher aged 37) holidaying in Calalzo di Cadore (in Belluno) were sitting near a wood outside the town when they noticed a bright light coming down from the sky, soon becoming a disc-shaped, domed object, blue in color and luminescent. They saw it land; then their awareness ceased until two hours later, at 1:00 a.m. By this time the object had disappeared and only a dark circular trace was visible on the ground, where grass was bent and blackened for a diameter of nine meters.

Strange dreams and sleeping difficulties on the following nights, as well as the surfacing memory of seeing two humanlike beings wearing overalls, helped to persuade them to be hypnotized on August 23-24 by a Pordenone physician. They related that two beings came out of the disc and took them on board without touching them but simply "communicating" such a command to them. Inside they were laid down and given a "medical examination," no detail of which was possible to obtain even under hypnosis. The entities, two meters tall, wore overalls which left bare their long, oval-shaped heads with phosphorescent eyes, pointed ears and narrow mouths. Inside the craft strange devices were seen and the whole "room" was illuminated by several lights of various colors. — *Antonio Chiumiento* ■

The current literature

by George M. Eberhart

■■ **George M. Eberhart, *IUR* contributing editor and CUFOS librarian, is compiler of the two-volume bibliography *UFOs and the Extraterrestrial Contact Movement* (1986).**

Andrews, John H. *The Extraterrestrials and Their Reality*. Prescott, Ariz.: JACO, March 1989. 96p. $10.00.

At least the cover warns us: "This book may contain controversial subject matter which people of certain religious faiths may find objectionable." Perhaps serious ufologists should be warned too. Andrews has concluded that the aliens are up to no good, and they are probably using humans as a "source of replacement parts for their ailing bodies and as a source of food for their hordes of little alien beings." The author is prepared for the onslaught, however, since he has built a survival site that can protect a family for an entire year.

Ashpole, Edward. *The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence*. London: Blandford; New York: Sterling, June 1989. 208p. $24.95. color illus.; bibliog.; index.

Unlike other books exploring this topic, Ashpole's work emphasizes the social and biological factors involved in the evolution and behavior of intelligent life on our own and other planets. The speculation is objective and open-minded, with a significant amount of time spent on the relevance of UFOs, which Ashpole treats critically but seriously. Other prominent themes include whether or not there are species-defined limits to intelligence and technological capability, and whether or not colonization is a universal factor among intelligent civilizations. A thought-provoking survey.

Bartholomew, Robert E. *UFOlore: A Social Psychological Study of a Modern Myth in the Making*. Stone Mountain, Ga.: Arcturus Book Service, June 1989. 247p. $40.00. Introduction by Thomas E. Bullard, foreword by Philip J. Klass, and preface by Robert Girard.

Bartholomew, a sociologist at Flinders University of South Australia, conducted this study as his 1988 Ph.D. dissertation at Flinders (he had already done his master's thesis at SUNY-Albany in 1984 on "The Influence of Culture and Imagination Imagery on the Perception and Interpretation of Unexplained Phenomena"). A co-developer of the fantasy-prone hypothesis for UFO abductions (*IUR*, March/April and May/June 1988), Bartholomew sets out to show that there is a continuum of belief systems from religious visions, fiery chariots, fairies, apparitions, and near-death experiences through UFO sightings, abductions, and contact with present-day extraterrestrials.

His hypothesis is that all such experiences are mental constructs that arise at times of acute personal crisis as a natural defense mechanism to give hope, love, encouragement, purpose and meaning to the percipient's life. Two-thirds of the book is devoted to a chronological listing — from ancient times to 1983 — of contact cases in which supposedly alien beings communicate with humans. Admitting this is a mixture of myth and folklore, dubious airship accounts, traditional CE3s, abduction cases, and contactee stories, Bartholomew claims that these are artificial distinctions.

A controversial book, *UFOlore* nonetheless does survey relevant psychological, sociological, and folkloric processes that undoubtedly have contributed to the body of beliefs about supernatural, psychic, and UFO phenomena.

Birdsall, Mark Ian. *A Research Paper Pertaining to the Phenomenon Known as Ghost Rocket and Foo Fighter*. Quest Publications, 12 Miles Hill St., Leeds LS7 2EQ, England. 1989. 54p.

A serious proponent of the reality of German super weapons during World War II, Birdsall contends that they were responsible for UFO reports from 1943 to 1947, and possibly later. Not so well-documented as one would hope, the paper still makes a strong case that these weapons went considerably beyond the drawing board.

CE IV. *Abduction* [60-min. audiocassette]. CE IV Music, 102 Ferness Oval, Glasgow G2I 3SE, Scotland. October 1988. $16.00 (includes p&h).

Brian McMullan, leader of the rock band CE IV, has based his music on the abduction experiences of the band members. One said to have occurred on July 13, 1985, the

day of the "Live-Aid" famine relief concert. The Rolling Stones they are not, but at least the band has made a creditable attempt to define abductions musically — "Can you imagine life without a CE IV?" asks one song. Best played in conjunction with the albums of East German rock singer/abductee Nina Hagen. The cassette comes with a flyer written by Jenny Randles.

Conroy, Ed. *Report on **Communion**: An Independent Investigation of and Commentary on Whitley Strieber's **Communion**.* New York: William Morrow, November 1989. 415p. $15.95. Reviewed from galleys.

Conroy, a writer for the *San Antonio Express-News*, has produced a first-class examination of the experiences claimed by abductee Whitley Strieber. Conroy's report includes interviews with Strieber's friends, family, and associates, as well as with UFO investigators (both sympathetic and skeptical), scientists, therapists, and Strieber himself. Although the book definitely favors the reality of Strieber's UFO abductions — and the similar experiences of many others — Conroy is by no means sympathetic to the idea, espoused by Budd Hopkins and others, that extraterrestrials are conducting genetic experiments on unwitting human beings. Instead, the abduction experience is seen as a mythic or archetypal event that somehow is a pivotal point in human evolution, at once both physically and spiritually real.

Conroy's investigation leads him into some areas that at first seem far afield of simple UFOs and aliens (Irish fairy folklore and the magical invocations of Aleister Crowley, for example) but he ties them all together engagingly and for the most part accurately. The author also hesitantly reveals his own anomalous experiences during the past few years in an Epilogue.

Although the book focuses primarily on Strieber's viewpoints and experiences, it also provides a valuable glimpse into the spectrum of personalities and philosophies involved in ufology today. The quotes and interview segments are verbatim (you can easily hear Phil Klass saying, "I've often said that I only wish that I could live as long as the myth of extraterrestrial visitors") and well-balanced. Strieber's disagreements with Hopkins, Jenny Randles, and Philippe Mora (the director of the soon-to-be-released *Communion* movie) are aired, as well as ambiguities concerning Strieber's whereabouts during the Texas Tower killings in August 1966 (it now seems that he *was* on campus that day — for the 100th anniversary of a local beer garden).

The UFO-abduction experience is complex and involves many different types of people and phenomena; Conroy's book, although falling short of definite answers, is a fascinating and detailed foray into a mystery that many readers of *Communion* find hauntingly familiar.

Cuadernos de Ufología, (1984-). Quarterly. Ed. Julio Arcas Gilardi and José Ruesga. C.d.U., Rualasal 22, 39001 Santander, Spain. 4200 Pts.

If you have even the slightest understanding of Spanish you should subscribe to this excellent, well-illustrated, superbly produced journal. The April 1989 issue contains, among many other things, "Myths and Realities in the Detection of UFOs by Radar," by Dominique Deyres; "UFOs or Optical Phenomena over Barcelona?" by J. Plana Crivillén; "Approach to the Study of Anomalous Phenomena in the Soviet Union," by Edward A. Ermilov; and "The UMMO Myth and Sects Today," by V.J. Ballester Olmos and C. Berché Cruz. With book reviews, letters, news notes, maps, charts, graphs.

Däniken, Erich von. *Die Augen der Sphinx.* Munich: C. Bertelsmann Verlag, 1989. 318p. color illus., notes, index.

Erich visits Egypt and finds more evidence of ancient mysteries. This time he accompanies an archeological dig which uncovers the mummies of thousands of crocodiles and birds. He speculates on the bizarre zoological hybrids that the Egyptians depicted in their art and sculpture (like the Sphinx) and theorizes that somebody was dabbling in genetic engineering way back when.

Fiore, Edith. *Encounters: A Psychologist Reveals Case Studies of Abductions by Extraterrestrials.* New York: Doubleday, August 1989. 342p. $17.95. Reviewed from galleys.

Fiore, a clinical psychologist specializing in hypnotic regression, has written other books on parapsychological topics. In this one she summarizes the case histories of 13 patients who have gone through an abduction experience. Fiore is convinced that aliens have visited us, that they can take over ("incorporate") human beings temporarily or permanently, that there are alien/human hybrids living among us, and that many UFO buffs (like Leo Sprinkle) are really contactees. She helpfully provides a list of ten "common indicators" of CE4s — ever have sleep disorders? unusual bodily sensations at night? a sense of being watched? You have three out of the 10 symptoms! The case histories at least are in transcript form so that we may judge Fiore's interview technique as well as her patients' actual statements.

Gevaerd, A. J., and Wendelle C. Stevens. *UFO Abduction at Maringá: The AGRIPO Experiment.* Tucson, Ariz.: UFO Photo Archives, [1988]. 213p. $14.95.

A translation and amplification of Gevaerd's *Contatos imediatos no Paraña*, this book describes the abduction experiences of Jocelino de Mattos and his family near Maringá, Brazil, beginning on April 13, 1979. The entities claimed to be from a star in the

Andromeda Galaxy and were conducting genetic hybridization experiments.

Girard, Robert C., ed. *An Early U.F.O. Scrap Book.* Stone Mountain, Ga.: Arcturus Book Service, June 1989. 182p. $40.00.

Girard brings together from the archives of private collector Robert Abild an interesting compilation of newspaper clippings and magazine articles from 1947 to 1968 (though mostly prior to 1958). In an introduction he stresses the need for younger ufologists to gain a proper perspective of the subject by studying its earlier history. Included are such classic articles as Keyhoe's "The Flying Saucers Are Real," *True*, January 1950 (mislabeled October 1949); Sidney Shalett's "What You Can Believe about Flying Saucers," *Saturday Evening Post*, April 30, May 7, 1949; and Darrach and Ginna's "Have We Visitors from Space?" *Life*, April 7, 1952. But please, Bob, for $40 couldn't you have provided an index, some insightful commentary, or even accurate bibliographic references for the majority of these clips?

Gordon, Danny B., and Paul Dellinger. *Don't Look Up! The Real Story Behind the Virginia UFO Sightings.* Empire Publishing, Route 3, Box 83, U.S. Hwy 220 South, Madison, N.C. 27025. 1988. 208p. $12.00.

Two journalists investigate a rash of UFO sightings in southwestern Virginia in October 1987. They are skeptical at first, then become convinced they have the story of the century on their hands, and finally become somewhat disillusioned as the complexities and ambiguities of the UFO phenomenon become apparent even to them. Pitifully juvenile illustrations and poor typography contrast with a moderately attractive cover.

Hind, Cynthia, ed. *UFO Afrinews, no.2.* UFO Afrinews, Box MP49, Mt. Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe. June 1989. 42p. $4.00.

The first issue appeared in November 1988 and contained many African UFO reports collected by veteran investigator Cynthia Hind. This one has more cases, letters to the editor, and some editorials. Perhaps African UFO sightings are in a decline, along with reports on other continents; only three mentioned in this issue are post-1981, and three others date from the 1950s. It helps to be reminded that UFOs are not exclusively American or European.

Hourcade, Milton W. *Elementos de OVNIlogía: Guia para la Investigación.* Available from the author, Quijote 2473, Apt. 702, Montevideo, Uruguay. February 1989. 102p. charts, appendices.

A longtime Uruguayan researcher and founder of the Centro de Investigación de Objetos Voladores Inidentificados (CIOVI) in 1958, Hourcade has distilled the best portions of other UFO handbooks (MUFON, Hendry, Ballester Olmos, GEPAN) into a practical guide for South American field investigators. He has chapters on scientific method, ufology as a discipline, the various definitions of OVNIs (UFOs), investigation methodology, case evaluation, and the need for national and international organizations to study the topic. Admirable work that deserves an English translation.

Howe, Linda Moulton. *An Alien Harvest: Further Evidence Linking Animal Mutilations and Human Abductions to Alien Life Forms.* Linda Moulton Howe Productions, Box 3130, Littleton, Colo. 80161. June 1989. 455p. $55.00. color illus., bibliog., index.

Finally published after a long delay, Howe's magnum opus mixes fact and rumor about mutes, abductions, and MJ-12. Not exactly a pinnacle of investigative journalism, the book describes Howe's inquiry into cattle mutilations without addressing the serious criticisms made by Daniel Kagan and Ian Summers in *Mute Evidence* (1984). This leads to discussions of abductions and the author's adventures with Richard Doty, Bill Cooper, Bill English, and others supposedly knowledgeable about such things as Project Grudge Report #13, Extraterrestrial Biological Entities, and underground alien bases. Even the wilder claims are accepted uncritically. Seventeen appendices include newspaper clippings, hypnosis transcripts, government documents, and correspondence. The production values are excellent, however; you're paying for the high-gloss paper and the color photos of dead cattle.

Kessel, John. *Good News from Outer Space.* New York: Tor Books, August 1989. 448p. $18.95. Reviewed from galleys.

This science fiction novel merits mention on two counts. First, it is an interesting examination of belief systems about UFOs and aliens; if you find yourself taking MJ-12 rumors or Gulf Breeze a bit too seriously, this book may be just the cautionary tale you need. Second, the main character is an amateur ufologist and journalist named George Eberhart. After a dazed double-take, I phoned the author and determined that it indeed was coincidence that he had chosen my name " spelled correctly for once " for the protagonist and not because he had known of my bibliography (a slight error in research protocol). Kessel said it was the first time one of his characters had ever called him up.

Meaden, G. T. "The Formation of Circular-Symmetric Crop-Damage Patterns by Atmospheric Vortices," *Weather* 44 (January 1989): 2-10.

The British mystery circles are explained as the effect of whirlwinds formed by specific topographical contours present in the south of England. They are characterized by a rapid descent, a short duration, and a tendency to occur at night. Since 1980 the author has studied more than 200 incidents, some of which involved witnesses to the whirlwinds. An "Archive and Register of Geometrical Damage Patterns in Crops" has been established by the Tornado and Storm Research Organisation in Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire.

O'Brien, Thomas J. "Those Security Clearances Promise to be Quicker and Tighter," *Defense*, October 1983, pp. 16-23.

Now that Bill Moore has admitted that he was at one time working as an agent for the Defense Investigative Service (DIS), inquiring minds would like to know just what that agency does and whether it has any relevance to UFOs. According to this article written by the director of that agency, DIS is an office of the Department of Defense responsible for: (1) more than 180,000 high-level security clearance investigations each year of military, civilian, and industrial personnel; and (2) the investigation of leaks of classified information. Although it is not stated in the article, I suspect that leaking disinformation might be one way that the DIS could identify security trouble spots. Perhaps DIS thought that by tapping into crashed saucer rumors, it could locate other significant leaks of military intelligence. The mind reels with the many implications of Moore's revelation.

Oddysey, no.1 (December 1988-). Monthly. James Vincent, ed. The official newsletter of the computer UFO bulletin board, ParaNet Alpha, Box 17675, Fountain Hills, Ariz. 85269-7675.

A compilation of news, essays, interviews, etc., that have been downloaded onto ParaNet. This issue contains speculations about John Lear and Bill Cooper; "How to Debunk Just about Anything," by Dan Drasin; and an interview with Phil Klass. If you'd rather get your gossip online, have your modem call (602) 837-0062.

Orbiter, no.1 (1987-). Now bi-monthly. Jim Melesciuc, ed., 43 Harrison St., Reading, Mass. 01867. $20.00/year.

This newsletter has grown to 16 pages of news, cartoons, articles, and other material, some of it with a New England focus, but the majority (of late) dealing with Gulf Breeze and MJ-12. Kind of a polite *Saucer Smear*, but always entertaining and informative.

OVNI-présence, no.1 (1975-). Quarterly. Yves Bosson, ed. L'Association d'Étude sur les Soucoupes Volantes, B.P. 324, F-13611 Aix-en-Provence, Cédex 1, France. 100 FF/year.

One of the best French-language UFO journals, *OVNI-présence* is also one of the world's best-looking, with its intriguing four-color cover illustrations. Every time I see a new issue I get the urge to brush up on my high-school French. The March 1989 issue (no.41) includes the following: "Marian Apparitions at Giubiasco, Switzerland?"; "The Link/OVNI-présence Opinion Poll: Its Premiere in Switzerland," by Bruno Mancusi; meticulous book reviews; "A Comparative Study of IFOs and UFOs," by J. Bourdon, M. Delaval, and F. Murtagh; and "False UFOs over Madrid," by the ubiquitous V.J. Ballester Olmos. *C'est formidable!*

Ribera, Antonio. *UFO Contact from Planet UMMO.* Vol. 1: The Mystery of UMMO. Tucson, Ariz.: UFO Photo Archives, [1987]. 353p. $16.95. Vol. 2: The Incredible Truth. Tucson, Ariz.: UFO Photo Archives, [1988]. 365p. $16.95.

These volumes, translations of Ribera's *El misterio de UMMO* (1979) and *UMMO: La increible verdad* (1985), are the only thorough English-language accounts of the notorious UMMO Affair which has persisted since 1967. If the Europeans ever accuse us of being too obsessed with crashed-saucer lore and pickled aliens, we can always point to UMMO as an analogue. In fact, there *are* some interesting parallels. In a nutshell: "This is a remarkable account of the arrival in 1950 of an extraterrestrial expedition from another planet called UMMO revolving around the star Wolf 424, 14.6 light-years from our Sun. Diligently studying this planet with their highly sophisticated equipment and techniques, they learned French and then Spanish and by 1955 opened carefully monitored contacts with humans in these two countries." By the mid-1980s the Ummites had contacted hundreds of people by letter or telephone and produced more than 7,000 documents describing their language, home planet, technology, and biology. Ribera himself was the recipient of some of these messages. The story has become one of the most labyrinthine in ufology.

Riehecky, Janet. *UFOs.* Chicago: The Child's World, 1989. 98p. $11.95.

A well-illustrated and balanced introduction for young children this book covers UFO history from Agobard of Lyons to Whitley Strieber.

Stacy, Dennis. *The Marfa lights: A Viewer's Guide.* The author, Box 12434, San Antonio, Tex. 78212. June 1989. 12p.

An all-too-brief overview of the Marfa, Texas, ghost lights, with two photographs and 15 annotated references.

Strieber, Whitley. *Majestic.* New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, September 1989. $18.95. Reviewed from galleys.

As Strieber says in his Afterword, "This novel is based on a factual reality that has been hidden and denied." Mixing elements of the Roswell incident, MJ-12 rumors, and his own abduction experiences, Strieber tells a complex story which will both intrigue and puzzle readers familiar with those topics.

The intriguing part is Strieber's recreation of the dialogue and feel of postwar America, from the servicemen at Roswell Field on up to Harry Truman. It's also fun to watch the Roswell story unfold and try to guess where the author will inject speculative scenarios.

The puzzling part is this: Does Strieber really believe that abductionlike events took place in conjunction with Roswell and that they were a critical factor in the creation of MAJIC, the above-top-secret Majestic Agency for Joint Intelligence? It will be interesting to see how Strieber responds to that inevitable question in future interviews.

Many of the characters in *Majestic* are based on real people. Those appearing under their real names are: Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg, Adm. Roscoe Hillenkoetter, Col. William Blanchard, Lt.Col. Payne Jennings, President Harry S Truman, Secretary of Defense James Forrestal, Brig.Gen. Roger Ramey, and Gen. Dwight Eisenhower.

Characters analogous to real people include the protagonist Wilfred Stone (partially based on CIC officer "Cav" Cavitt), Bob Ungar (William "Mac" Brazel), Sam and Betty White (Mr. and Mrs. Dan Wilmot), Maj. Donald O. Gray (Maj. Jesse A. Marcel), Lt. Jack Hope (Lt. Walter Haut), Warrant Officer Vinton Yancey (W/O Irving Newton), Gerald Benning (Donald Menzel), Dick Toole (Lloyd Berkner), Gene Edwards (Detlev Bronk), and Walt Roediger (Jerome Hunsaker).

Strieber undoubtedly feels that a work of fiction will have a more dramatic impact than an objective, journalistic account. There may well be an avalanche of public interest which could lead to more information on crash/retrievals and government UFO cover-ups. But because fact and fiction are so intricately blended in the novel, ufologists will have their hands full just setting the record straight.

Among the myriad fictional elements in *Majestic* that will probably be mistaken for true events are:

(1) Adm. Hillenkoetter and "Cav" Cavitt (Wilfred Stone) as abductees;

(2) unearthly screams heard in the desert shortly after the crash;

(3) the discovery near Roswell of three bodies — of two aliens, and a third an apparent human who had been genetically altered;

(4) top-secret government documents (written by Strieber to accompany his narrative) that mention both real and fictional events;

(5) the hijacking of the bodies by Wilfred Stone to Los Alamos, where the autopsies occur;

(6) a missing-time experience at the crash site itself;

(7) the implication that UFO sightings declined or disappeared entirely after the early 1950s when military "shoot to kill" orders proved futile and tragic;

(8) certain "disappearances" that are now generally discredited (David Lang, Oliver Thomas/Lerch, Joe LaBelle's Eskimo village) and the William Loosley close encounter of 1871, which was written as science fiction; and

(9) the ability of the visitors to subliminally coerce people into having sex so that the resulting fetus can be removed after three months, subjected to accelerated growth, and used as an alien stooge.

I dread the phone calls from the media that we will get at CUFOS once this novel is published.

In his Afterword, Strieber asserts that the visitors — not necessarily aliens from another planet, but "apparently intelligent unknowns" — are here, the government knows it, and serious journalists should wake up and dig into the subject. "My vision of the visitors," he writes, "their world, their motives and their objectives is based on my own understanding. Where what I have seen personally departs from conventional wisdom, I have always trusted my personal observations."

As a science-fiction novel, *Majestic* is well-paced, consistently suspenseful, and thought-provoking. Its only literary fault is an obscure, extended, hallucinatory sequence at the very end. Before you read it, however, you might want to read Ed Conroy's book and have a copy of *The Roswell Incident* handy for fact-checking.

UFO: Rivista di Informazione Ufologica, vol.1 (1986-). Semiannual. Gianni Settimo, ed. Centro Italiano Studi Ufologici, Corso Vittorio Emanuele 108, 10121 Torino, Italy. L.10,000/year.

Yet another excellent European journal, accompanied by an English-language newsletter, the *Italian UFO Reporter*, which abstracts the articles in the *Rivista*. The December 1988 issue has the following gems: "Are There Two Ufologies?" by Jenny Randles (from the *BUFORA Bulletin*, November 1988); "Three Circles of Scorched Grass," by Gian Paolo Grassino; "The IR-3 Photo in Italy," by Paolo Fiorino, who exposes the July 31, 1952, Monguzzi photograph as a hoax; "The Mt. Bondone Case," by Alessandro Cortellazzi; and "The Brussels Congress," by Edoardo Russo.

UFO Times, no.1 (May 1989-). Bi-monthly. Mike Wootten, ed., BUFORA, 103 Hove Avenue, Walthamstow, London E17 7NG, England.

A new British UFO Research Association publication which may prove to be a serious contender for the best coverage of recent UFO sightings in the U.K. with Dave Clarke's "Investigations Diary." One interesting news item from Jenny Randles shows the official Ministry of Defence case report figures for 1978-1988: a total of 400

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stance of it. What is worth taking seriously, however, is the sense of it. The sense of it is in the question of who "THEY" are. No sophisticated reader will have any trouble knowing where the author (who is, I'm sure, less bigoted than woefully naive) picked up these notions: from racist literature (which he may not have recognized as such). "THEY" — who exist only as a pronoun in the article — are, of course, every conspiracy theorist's favorite target: the international Zionist cabal, sometimes called the Illuminati, sometimes, as in certain 1950s contactee writings, the International Bankers, who secretly control the planet. Jews, in other words. For further details on the background to these sorts of beliefs, see George Johnson's excellent *Architects of Fear: Conspiracy Theories and Paranoia in American Politics* (1983).

When I read this appalling drivel, I wrote the editor, whose intelligence and good sense I ordinarily hold in high regard, and asked him what he could possibly have been thinking when he accepted the manuscript for publication. He replied that my criticisms were "well taken." He said that "all I can say is that an editor sometimes needs to shake things up.... Often a stinging or clarifying rebuttal is brought out of the woodwork." What I have written here may or may not constitute that "stinging rebuttal," but even if it does, that does not justify the publication of material that panders to the worst instincts of our fellow human beings.

Weirdly, nobody but me seemed to notice. I polled a number of my friends in ufology and found one reason: hardly any of them had read the piece. But I know that many of the magazine's readers had to have read it. So far none has commented on it in a letter to the editor, leading me to believe it was either ignored, shrugged off or deemed acceptable speculation. My point is not that ufologists (or, for that matter, even the author of the article; I suspect even he doesn't know what he was talking about) are anti-Semitic bigots. My points are, one, that ufologists have a responsibility not to be credulous and stupid; two, that editors of UFO magazines have an obligation not to publish credulous and stupid material; and, three, that ufologists, for all their fascination with alleged otherworldly phenomena, live in this world and have the same moral and intellectual responsibilities everyone else who resides in this world has. That means, for one thing, that the kind of political naivete that makes possible the spread of lunatic and, worse, pernicious ideas is inexcusable.

Even from the narrow viewpoint of ufology's interests alone, this ignorance is destructive. It causes some UFO buffs to fail to comprehend that plenty of other forces — political, economic, strategic, psychological, cultural — besides UFO cover-up conspiracies run the world and one need not, for example, suppose that only a mutual fear of aliens can explain why in the late 1980s the United States and the Soviet Union have decided to settle their differences. It suggests, at the very least, that because some UFO buffs act as if they have never read a book on any other subject than ufology, they have no context in which to place false claims that come from outside ufology or any way of judging them. (As someone with a lifelong interest in political affairs and postwar history, I find the simple-mindedness of some UFO theorists in these areas mindboggling. I refer interested readers to some presentations given at the recent MUFON conference.) What I'm saying long-windedly is something I shall now express bluntly: Some UFO buffs don't seem to know how to think. And anybody who doesn't know how to think — how to weigh evidence, how to decide what is worth heeding and what isn't — has no place in this field, where these qualities are as essential as the ability to breathe.

Armchair critics from time to time accuse ufologists of being "conspiracy theorists" because they think it is possible the U.S. government knows more than it is telling about UFOs. That is *not* a conspiracy theory; it is simply an acknowledgement of the obvious fact that governments can and do keep secrets. And in fact ufologists have good reason to think this is the case where UFOs are concerned. On the other hand, a true conspiracy theory is, as I wrote in this space in the September/October 1988 issue, a paranoid vision in which "political, economic and social events are held to be secretly controlled by vastly powerful, vastly sinister, nearly always invisible forces." We are now seeing, I am afraid, the emergence of *real* conspiracy theories — sometimes, sadly, in the "serious" UFO literature. (You may rest assured, however, that none of them will appear in any CUFOS publication.) All of this is pretty discouraging.

Some of ufology's best people, prominent among them our friends Dick Hall and Stan Friedman, have protested in the most outspoken manner possible the rise of paranoid madness and the complicity of some who ought to know better (i.e., those who say they just want to "stir discussion") in it. And they certainly are not alone. They know that if ufology does not shake off the hold that paranoids, liars and charlatans have on some of our number, the stereotypes will have been validated; ufology will indeed be the province of crackpots.

It's not just some UFO buffs who believe without evidence, of course. Belief — or, in the case that follows, assertion — without evidence seems standard practice among debunkers, further substantiation, I suppose, of my growing suspicion that they sense on some level that where actual facts are concerned, they've lost the debate, so they've wisely decided to take it elsewhere: into fantasyland. Here's Robert Sheaffer in the Summer 1989 issue of *Skeptical Inquirer*: "Mark Rodeghier, scientific director of the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, clearly feeling the pressure from his skeptical comments on the [Gulf Breeze] case ..., has now softened his

original position from 'probable hoax' to 'a potentially significant UFO case, but one that remains unproven.' (UFO organizations, you see, depend on subscriptions and donations to keep the doors open, and groups that become too skeptical soon find both drying up.)"

How interesting. How does Sheaffer know this? He doesn't. He made it up. He's saying here that CUFOS' position on Gulf Breeze has changed, "you see," because we were afraid of losing subscribers. There is about as much truth in this as in there is in those yarns about aliens who chow down on human flesh. Maybe less, since I do not know with metaphysical certainty that such nasty critters don't exist (even if I don't believe in them for a second). But we at CUFOS are in the unique position to know, beyond any shadow of any doubt whatever, that our positions on *any* case (and that, should Sheaffer still fail to grasp the point, includes Gulf Breeze) are not determined by our mail. We make our judgments based on the closest possible reading of the evidence, followed sometimes by internal discussion and debate. Even if that were not the case, even if we were the cynical buck-chasers of Sheaffer's hallucination, that would not have affected our reading of Gulf Breeze, since our pronouncements on the subject had no effect, positive or negative, on *IUR*'s circulation figures. (Offhand I can't think of *any* subscriptions we've lost because we were skeptical of a case. If such exist — surely at some point *somebody* got that mad at us — there are so few that none come to mind.)

In any case, CUFOS never changed its "original position" on the case. Rodeghier's statement is simply a variant of "interesting if true." It does not reflect a nonexistent fear of nonexistent subscription losses. I know for a fact that Mark remains deeply skeptical of Gulf Breeze, but he (like me) has had to acknowledge that Bruce Maccabee, Gulf Breeze's leading proponent, has done a respectable job of answering skeptics' criticisms of the evidence. That doesn't mean Gulf Breeze therefore must be true, but it does mean that, in the absence of solid disconfirming evidence, the question must remain open, however firmly one's instincts tell one this must be a hoax. If true, Gulf Breeze is "potentially significant." Who could dispute that? It also is "unproven." Who could dispute that? No sensible person, of course.

Elsewhere in the same issue Paul Kurtz, CSICOP's chairman, repeats the canard that the evidence "for UFO-abduction phenomena ... like the evidence for past lives, is based on regressive hypnosis." Wrong, as Kurtz would know if he knew anything about the subject. As the rest of us know from the pioneering work of Thomas E. Bullard (among others), between one-quarter and one-third of all abduction cases are consciously recalled. Moreover, they are identical in all significant respects to those recalled under hypnosis. Dr. Bullard writes (in a major paper in the recent *Journal of UFO Studies*), "Weighed and found wanting time and again, hypnosis cannot shoulder nearly as much responsibility for abductions as the skeptics have proposed. None of their appeals to confabulation, influence by the hypnotist, and experiments with non-abductees stand up under a comparative examination. In light of these findings, the burden of proof now drops on the skeptics. They can no longer repeat their old claims as meaningful answers." Wanna bet? — *Jerome Clark*

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Bangor CE3 — *continued from page 6*

to be a good candidate for the boys' sighting but there are no ad-plane companies still in business in the area, and besides, they have no business flying around in military restricted airspace. The biggest argument against an aircraft misidentification is that no civilian aircraft are allowed anywhere near the area. The Trident submarine base had been the site of numerous antinuclear demonstrations and acts of civil disobedience in the early 1980s, and Navy security forces get touchy if anyone flies anywhere close to the base, let alone buzzes it at an altitude of less than 100 feet.

The fathers of the two boys, both Navy security personnel, joked about how seriously their wives were taking the boys' accounts but didn't dispute their stories or offer any explanations, other than suggesting facetiously that it may have been the Russians. That seems an extremely improbable explanation, given the severe diplomatic repercussions that would result should they get caught.

The families decided not to report the sighting to anyone in authority at the base and to this day I don't believe the base commander knows anything about it. It remains a perplexing story, open to either an unusual psychological explanation or interpretation as a truly anomalistic aerial phenomenon. ■

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Australia — *continued from page 13*

publicity abduction cases may lie undiscovered, with potential abductees being unaware that there are responsible organizations to which they could take their stories. The recent UFORA publicity suggests there are indeed a few cases awaiting attention. But a balance needs to be maintained between too much media exposure with the inherent risk of exposing people to the intimate details of previous events, and not enough publicity which would keep reports from flowing to us.

What, then, have we learned about the abduction experience in Australia? We have learned that there are cases that parallel those in other countries. Researchers have not been able to pursue and fully document many of these cases. Reasons for this include the sheer vastness of the Australian land mass and distances to percipients; the small number of serious researchers; the attitudes of some UFO investigators; and the unwillingness of percipients to be involved with full investigations.

Are there yet more cases to uncover? UFORA's carefully measured appeal for cases has shown that it is possible to tread the line between too little and too much publicity. With the limited resources available to Australian researchers a qualitive rather than a quantitative approach seems the best way to proceed. As the recently uncovered cases are investigated, details will be published for the benefit of the broader global UFO research community. ■

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Current literature — *continued from page 21*

cases (not necessarily UFOs, however) were reported to the MOD in 1988, the highest level since 1981. Randles notes that the 1981 MOD high of 600 cases is not reflected in the BUFORA case files.

Ulrich, Ann Carol. *Intimate Abduction.* Delta, Colo.: Earth Star Publications, 1988. 178p. $6.75.

Perhaps the first trashy romance novel to involve a UFO abduction, this narrative may appeal to Twilight Zoners who are also Barbara Cartland fans. The back-cover blurb is worth quoting: "Beautiful, sensitive Johanna, sheltered from the harshities of life by an overprotective brother, suddenly finds her life turned upside down by a conspiracy in the form of a bizarre abduction. Her struggle with her own sanity strengthens her for what is to come...a journey aboard a mother ship to a planet colony where advanced beings breed with humans in order to acquire their talent and artistic abilities. Amidst the stir of rebellion, Johanna has fallen in love with her abductor, Serassan, and must choose between her allegiance to Earth or spending the rest of her life with a man whose true appearance disgusts her." Perhaps many women these days can sympathize with that quandary! ■

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Letter

To the editor:

I wanted to take this opportunity to say how much I respect the work that you are doing. I am aware of some criticism from certain quarters of American ufology and wish to emphasize that, so far as I can ascertain, leading researchers in this country are nonplussed by it.

IUR is a vital and open-minded publication, a rare commodity in UFO terms. I do not see any evidence of bias towards either esoteric thinking or "nuts-and-bolts spaceships" and frankly, if I did, would not support the magazine with articles or endorsements. In my opinion a UFO journal has to reflect the conflicting viewpoints and all the multi-faceted aspects of our puzzling subject. Nobody has a monopoly on the truth, not Britain or the USA, not the psycho-social theorizers or ETH thinkers.

The sign of a leading publication is that it carries articles that disagree with one another, representing a variety of approaches to this often self-contradicting phenomenon of ours. I would be deeply suspicious of any serious UFO group or magazine that slanted itself in one direction only. *IUR* manifestly does not and any charges to the contrary are lacking in substance and credibility. Of course, there is always room for improvement in any endeavor but *IUR* has got things essentially right and should not sacrifice its principles to those who speak because they cannot do.

Jenny Randles
Stockport, Cheshire
England

Coming in *IUR*...

Electromagnetic radiation and the generation of UFO experiences
by Chris Rutkowski

Daylight disc over Novato
by Richard F. Haines